THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 3, 1993

Ms. Christy Hopping

[redacted]

Dear Christy:

I appreciate hearing your views on my recent decision regarding homosexuals who wish to serve in the Armed Forces. Few issues in recent times have spurred the kind of debate that has occurred since the time I pledged to change our nation's policy toward homosexuals in the military. I know that this is both a sensitive and emotional issue for many people.

I believe that those who want to serve their country, including men and women who are homosexual, should be allowed to do so, providing they adhere to the high standards of conduct that are expected of military personnel. This policy strikes a sensible balance between the rights of individuals and the needs of our military to remain the world's number one fighting force.

As President of all the American people, I am pledged to protect and to promote civil rights. As Commander-in-Chief, I am pledged to protect and advance our security. In adopting this new policy, I have done my best to meet both objectives.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

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